UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FIFTIETH SESSION

Official Records

SIXTH COMMITTEE
42nd meeting
held on
Monday, 20 November 1995
at 5.15 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 42nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. LEHMANN (Denmark)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 139: UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF ASSISTANCE IN THE TEACHING, STUDY, DISSEMINATION AND WIDER APPRECIATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 144: REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH THE HOST COUNTRY

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of the publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-794, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

Distr. GENERAL
A/C.6/50/SR.42
11 December 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

95-82392 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 5.15 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 139: UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF ASSISTANCE IN THE TEACHING, STUDY, DISSEMINATION AND WIDER APPRECIATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW (continued) (A/50/726; A/C.6/50/2)

1. Mr. BENADAVA (Chile) said that the report of the Secretary-General (A/50/726) provided interesting guidelines and recommendations for the next biennium. The International Law Fellowship Programme had made a worthwhile contribution to the programme for the current biennium; it would be desirable for the Hague Academy of International Law to have additional funds, from voluntary contributions, so that its very successful external courses could be offered more frequently and extended to more geographical areas.

2. His delegation welcomed the updating of various periodical publications of the United Nations. Some publications which appeared to be out of print, for example, the reports of the International Law Commission for certain years and some volumes of the United Nations Reports of International Arbitral Awards, should be reprinted.

3. His delegation welcomed the proposal to create an audiovisual library for the teaching of international law; that initiative would assist in the dissemination and broader understanding of international law, particularly in developing countries.

4. M. CORELL (Under-Secretary-General, Legal Counsel) said that the Secretariat had noted the positive comments made about the computerization programme undertaken by the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs and would further intensify its efforts. The publication Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General, Status as at 31 December 1994 would be available on Internet, in user-friendly form, by the end of November; it contained detailed information on 465 multilateral treaties. Electronic access would be provided to the daily updated version of that publication as soon as the necessary technical issues had been resolved.

5. The collection of over 40,000 treaties registered with the Secretariat was being converted to optical disk format; all the printed volumes would be converted by the end of 1995, and the remainder would be available in 1996. All new treaties registered with the Secretariat would be scanned into the system prior to being processed for publication; that massive database, including the index, would be made available on line, and should be available on the United Nations local area network by early 1996. A number of options were being considered, including the use of independent service providers. Whatever system was selected, it would be ensured that access was provided to the widest possible audience in the most cost-effective manner. Consideration was also being given to the possibility of levying a user fee on certain categories of users in order to generate revenue for maintaining and updating the database.

6. The technological innovations being introduced by the Treaty Section could also be used to further enhance the processes for expeditiously transmitting, registering and publishing treaties, including the electronic transmission of

treaties and related materials, which would save time and resources and facilitate the work of the treaty departments of Ministries of Foreign Affairs.

7. The Secretariat would welcome further suggestions and comments from delegations.

AGENDA ITEM 144: REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH THE HOST COUNTRY (A/50/26, A/50/112-S/1995/207)

8. Mr. AGATHOCLEOUS (Cyprus), introducing the report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country (A/50/26), said that during the reporting period the Committee on relations with the Host Country had held five meetings and had continued to deal with a wide range of matters of significance to the United Nations diplomatic community and the host country. The report followed the usual format and reflected the main issues raised during the deliberations. The Committee on Relations with the Host Country continued to be an important forum in which representatives of Member States sought to solve problems through a frank and constructive exchange of views.

9. Mr. SANCHEZ (Spain), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the European Union was grateful for the efforts made by various bodies, in particular the United States Mission to the United Nations and the New York City Commission for the United Nations and Consular Corps, to meet the concerns of the diplomatic community in New York. The Committee on Relations with the Host Country had made an important contribution to solving specific problems and to upholding a general legal framework in accordance with the relevant international legal instruments.

10. The European Union welcomed the measures taken by the host country to accelerate immigration and customs procedures for diplomatic personnel arriving in the New York area and urged the host country to continue to take appropriate action in that regard to ensure the application of those procedures.

11. The European Union was aware of the importance of the question of indebtedness of diplomatic missions and staff members and of the difficulty of finding a solution satisfactory to all parties involved; it was of the highest importance for good relations between the diplomatic community, the United Nations and the authorities and people of the host country that greater efforts should be made by all concerned to resolve those problems. The European Union therefore welcomed the recommendations made by the Committee on Relations with the Host Country in paragraph 67 (e) and annex II of its report and hoped that they would be endorsed by the General Assembly at the current session.

12. On the question of transport and the application of traffic laws, the European Union reiterated the importance it attached to articles IV and V of the 1947 Headquarters Agreement and articles 29 to 31 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations concerning inviolability and immunity from the criminal, civil and administrative jurisdiction of the receiving State. It expected the host country to take appropriate steps to comply fully with those obligations. It also recognized the obligation in article 41 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations for all persons enjoying diplomatic privileges and immunities to respect the laws and regulations of the receiving State.

13. The European Union endorsed the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.